

# NEWS RELEASE

**OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS**

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***For Immediate Release***

***APRIL 14, 2004***

Ronald J. Tenpas, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on April 6, 2004, **TERRENCE CORTHEM**, age 22, of Carbondale, Illinois, was indicted by a Federal Grand Jury sitting in Benton, Illinois, in a two-count indictment, charging him with distribution of crack cocaine. An indictment is a formal charge against a defendant. The violations took place on January 28, 2003, and February 25, 2004, in Carbondale, Illinois. Under the law, a defendant is presumed to be innocent of a charge until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt to the satisfaction of a jury.

The distribution charges carry a penalty of up to 20 years' imprisonment, a fine of up to \$1 million, and a term of at least 3 years' supervised release.

Information for the indictment was obtained through the cooperative effort of the Carbondale Police Department, Jackson County Sheriff's Office, Southern Illinois Enforcement Group, and Drug Enforcement Administration, pursuant to those agencies' participation in the Project Safe Neighborhoods initiative in the Southern District of Illinois. Under the Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative, federal, state, and local law enforcement and prosecutors are working together to prosecute drug dealers, felons in possession of firearms, and criminals that use firearms to commit violent offenses or drug trafficking offenses. The Jackson County Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative is a joint and cooperative effort of the United States Attorney's Office, Jackson County States Attorney's Office, Drug Enforcement Administration, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, Carbondale Police Department, Jackson County Sheriff's Office, Southern Illinois Enforcement Group, and Murphysboro Police Department.

The case is assigned to Assistant United States Attorney Amanda A. Robertson for prosecution.